

HISTORIC DUNVEGAN GUIDED WALK



STOP 1: *St. Charles Mission* *The Rectory*

The Rectory, or house-chapel, was constructed in 1889 as a residence for Oblate Roman Catholic priests and lay brothers. The site of the first rectory, built for Father Christophe Tissier by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869, was located west of the present building. The medallion of the Virgin Mary was worn by the Oblates and distributed to the people of their mission.



STOP 2: *St. Charles Mission* *St. Charles Church*

The Church was built by Fathers Grouard and Husson and dedicated in 1885. It served as a place of prayer for Beaver, Cree, Iroquois and Sekani Indians, as well as resident Europeans. The original bell was cast in France and sent to St. Charles Mission in 1886.



STOP 3: *Between Church and Bridge*

The Peace River valley developed into a rich and fertile grassland over several million years. Fossils and stone tools, the latter used by prehistoric people long before the coming of the fur trade, have been found along the river's edge. The name of the Peace River comes from the Beaver name 'Unchaga', a reference to the peace made between the Beaver and Cree in 1784.



STOP 4: *The Factor's House*

The first fur trade post at Dunvegan was built in

1805. The traders cultivated potatoes and other vegetables, as well as grain, in the fertile valley soil. The first post was built by the North West Company west of here, and taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821. Later in the century, the Bay Company constructed a second fort. Built in 1877-78 of squared logs with dove tailed corners, the Factor's House was the first structure of the new fort and is the only remaining building from the fur trade period.



STOP 5: *First Post Site* *(1805-1878)*

This is the site of the original Fort Dunvegan established by Archibald Norman McLeod in 1805

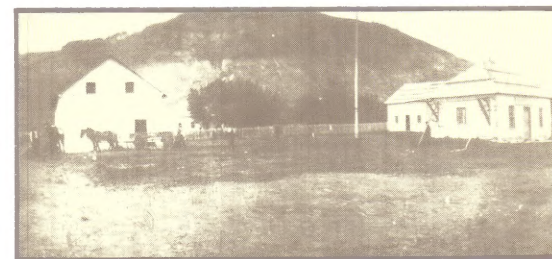


'The rectory undergoes restoration. Older decayed logs are replaced with new ones.'

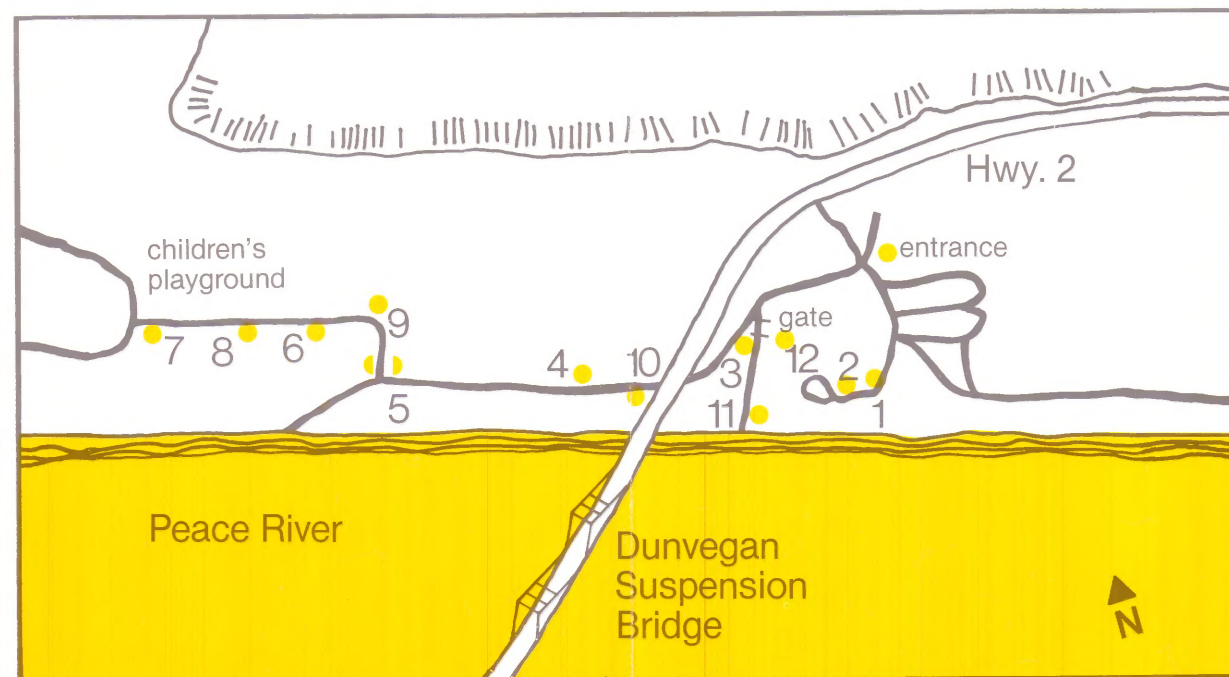


STOP 6: *Before St. Saviour's Mission*

Many local plants were used by native peoples; among them, nettle for fishing lines, fireweed for stomach ailments, and meadow rue for perfume. The fur traders learned through tragic trial and error which plants were edible. Mistaken for rat root, poison water hemlock was eaten by several men from the North West Company, killing one man.



'The Building in the background is the only remaining structure of the later Hudson Bay Company fur trade post. It was occupied by the man in charge of the post.'



Some of the berries could be eaten, however, such as cranberries and saskatoon berries.



STOP 7: *St. Saviour's* *Anglican Mission* *(1879-91) "The Maples"*

Construction of the Anglican Mission house was begun in 1879 by Thomas Bunn, a school teacher from Fort Chipewyan, and continued by Reverend John Brick. A small extension to the east served as a chapel. The second minister, Reverend Alfred Garrioch, planted Manitoba Maple seeds in the 1880s. From these have grown the maples which have given the area its popular name. Surviving evidence of the mission building includes a cellar depression and the cobble remains of a fireplace.



'Fort Dunvegan, 1872. To the right is the site of the first North West Company fur trade post, the agricultural gardens can be seen in the centre.'



STOP 8: *Garrioch Child's Grave*

This picketed grave lies at the edge of the former Anglican cemetery. The Garrioch family arrived during a period of great scarcity; the native people had little food and many were ill with tuberculosis. The missionaries also suffered. Caroline Garrioch, the second of the Garrioch's children born at Dunvegan, survived only two days.



STOP 9: *On the Road* *before Market Garden*

By 1914 stopping houses for travellers had been built on both sides of the river, and a Royal North West Mounted Police post and telegraph office stood on the hill overlooking Dunvegan. The optimistic promotion of Dunvegan as a future city came to

nothing when the railways went to the towns of Peace River and Spirit River instead of Dunvegan. The steamboat service ceased, the police and telegraph operator left, and after 111 years of operation the Hudson's Bay Company closed Fort Dunvegan. Nevertheless, because of the valley's rich market gardens, Dunvegan still survives.



STOP 10: The Bridge

The Dunvegan Suspension Bridge is Alberta's longest clear span bridge and the fourth largest suspension bridge in Canada. It is 550 metres long (1800 feet) with a centre span measuring 275 metres (900 feet) and an end span of 140 metres (450 feet). Completed in 1960, the bridge replaced the ferry service and serves as an invaluable link between the north and south Peace districts.



STOP 11: Ferry Landing Site

River transportation during the fur trade period consisted of rafts, York boats, spruce bark and birch bark canoes and dugouts. The period of steamships on the Peace River began in 1903 with the launching of the Oblate steamboat 'St. Charles'. The completion of the railway to the town of Peace River in 1916 ended the steamboat era on the upper river, but the importance of Dunvegan as a landing and

crossing point continued. The ferry service was begun in 1909. Towers on either bank held a cable that acted as a guideline, while the river current actually propelled the ferry across.



STOP 12: Corner of Mission Site

Beneath this site lie many artifacts that tell the story of 111 years of trade, agriculture, missionary work and settlement. They serve as a record of the natives, the metis, the missionaries and the fur traders who settled or visited here. Through archaeology, some of these artifacts are being brought to light and are helping to piece together a better picture of the past at Dunvegan. In addition, the Factor's House and St. Charles Church and Rectory are monuments to a fascinating period in Alberta's history. Restoration of these buildings will help visitors to imagine what life was like here in the 19th century.

LOCATION:

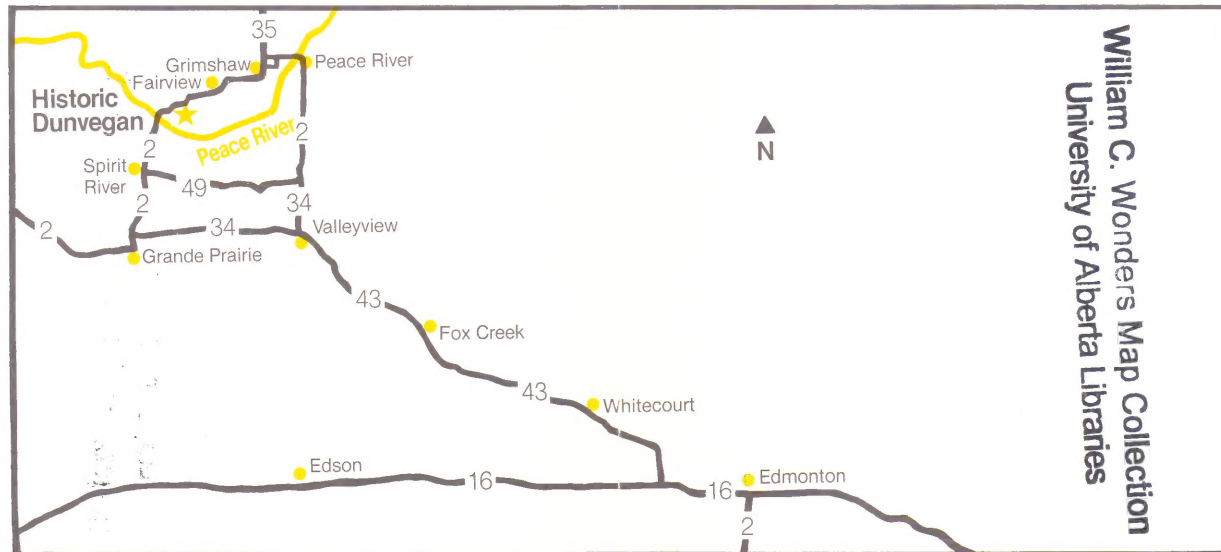
Beside the Dunvegan Suspension Bridge on the north side of the Peace River, off Highway 2.

OPEN:

Summer:
Victoria Day weekend to Labour Day.

Hours:
10 am to 6 pm — Victoria Day to June 30.
10 am to 9 pm — July 1 to Labour Day.

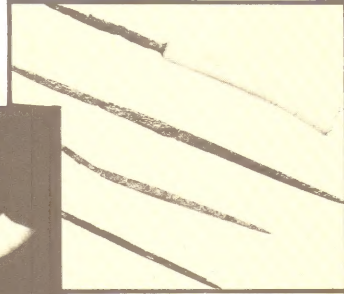
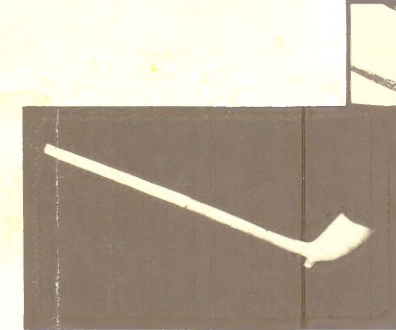
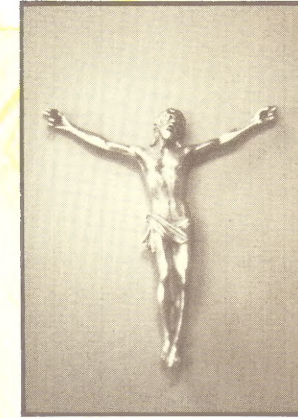
Winter: Closed. Admission Free.



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Z Box 25-65

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Alberta
CULTURE